



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-6008
5 May 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - April 1986

I. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

1. During April South Korean students often begin the "spring season" of serious anti-government demonstrations, with 19 April, the anniversary of student rallies that eventually culminated in the overthrow of President Syngman Rhee in 1960, as the focus. The Embassy was prepared for the normal level of violence that often accompanies such activity, but the outburst this year caught many people by surprise. With opposition to the system of military training for university sophomores as the rallying point, demonstrating students forced the closure of Songgyungwan University in Seoul. Two Seoul National University students later set themselves on fire to protest military training and other grievances. One subsequently died and the other is not expected to live. Student protest movements and campus unrest have become a major focus of Bureau attention and are likely to remain so in the months ahead.

2. With the heightened attention to student activities, at mid-month the Bureau undertook an unusual translation request from the Embassy political section. The Pusan Consulate in a message provided a rough translation of a particularly virulent, anti-U.S. leaflet found on the Pusan University campus. The leaflet attracted immediate attention on the part of Embassy and military analysts. Bureau Korean monitors translated the leaflet, and in a covering memo to the political section observed that the terms and wording in the leaflet were exactly like those used in North Korean media, and that even its "atrocities stories" of acts committed by U.S. soldiers were similar to those used by Pyongyang and the clandestine Voice of National Salvation. The political section expressed thanks for the Bureau's observations, and Ambassador Walker during the 25 April Country Team meeting expressed his personal appreciation for Bureau assistance.

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3. North-South relations suffered a jolt on 24 April when a ROK naval vessel shelled and sank a DPRK fishing trawler far off the west coast near the DMZ line extending out to sea. The DPRK immediately protested this "grave provocation," and followed with an outpouring of commentaries on Pyongyang radio denouncing the South. The North formally requested a Military Armistice Commission meeting over the incident, to be held 6 May.

4. At the request of a high-level BBC consumer, the Bureau filed extensive reportage at immediate precedence on British Prime Minister Thatcher's official visit to the ROK 2-4 May, prior to the economic summit in Tokyo. Mrs. Thatcher's visit, made in return for ROK President Chon Tu-hwan's visit to the UK earlier this year, was aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation in all fields. During a summit meeting with Chon, she affirmed UK support for the simultaneous entry of the two Koreas into the United Nations and cross-recognition of the two by the United States, Japan, China, and the Soviet Union, and expressed full support for ROK efforts to achieve the peaceful unification of the peninsula through inter-Korean dialogue. In her unprecedentedly tight schedule -- attending various functions and meetings with Korean and British officials on as many as 14 occasions during her 48 hours in the country -- Mrs. Thatcher visited the Truce Village of Panmunjom, a monument commemorating British soldiers who participated in the Korean War, the National Cemetery, and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister No Sin-yong. She is the first British Prime Minister to visit Seoul since the ROK and UK established diplomatic relations in 1883. In response to her support for South Korea on inter-Korean dialogue and the simultaneous entry of the two Koreas into the UN, an issue that will be discussed at the Tokyo Summit, Pyongyang radio on 4 May denounced her visit to and support for the South in a strongly worded NODONG SINMUN commentary which the Bureau also filed at immediate precedence for the BBC.

5. Korean Unit wordage, which has been high since the first of the year, jumped to near-record levels in April. Translated wordage from Pyongyang Domestic Service, nearly 216,000 words, was just under last October's record total. Including translations from Voice of National Salvation, Seoul Radio, and the ROK vernacular papers, Korean translated wordage came to about half the Bureau total. The DPRK Supreme People's Assembly session, material on the resumption of the North-South dialogue, the boat sinking, and the DPRK's continued campaign to cohost the 1988 Olympics contributed to the workload.

6. On 15 April the Embassy received a bomb threat via a call to the Marine Guards. The Embassy was quickly evacuated, and the Bureau was closed for almost an hour. After a search by the Marines the all-clear was given. It is assumed that the threat was related to the aftermath of the U.S. attack on Libya.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Deputy Chief [] left Seoul on 4 May for R&R in the United States. [] will serve as acting deputy chief and chief editor until [] returns at the end of May.

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III. VISITS

1. On 23 April retired Okinawa Bureau monitor [] visited the Bureau. He had been in Seoul to visit relatives before retiring in Los Angeles.

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2. On the 24th Majors Robert Teasdale and Michael Steiner, Army J-2 political-military affairs officers, visited the Bureau for a briefing. Major Teasdale, who has been with J-2 Korea for several years, will soon be reassigned to CINCPAC in Hawaii. He has made extensive use of the Bureau product and wanted Major Steiner, who will replace him at J-2, to become familiar with Bureau operations and personnel.

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Chief, Seoul Bureau

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Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for april 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	643990
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	152420
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1517

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	13265.00 min.	5510.00 min.	104.46 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA

Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	2000	
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	2050	
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	9200	
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	10920	
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	11050	
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	5010	
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	5320	
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	4150	
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	2270	
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese		8500
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese		37350
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese		0
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in Chinese		0
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese		6500
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese		22900
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese		15370

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in
Chinese

13400

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in
Korean to South Korea

26750

KOREA (NORTH)

Pyongyang Domestic Service in
Korean

215880

Pyongyang Domestic Television Service in
Korean

0

Pyongyang KCNA in
English

118120

Pyongyang Editorial Report on DPRK
Korean

400

Pyongyang KULLOJA in
Korean

0

Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in
Korean

0

KOREA (SOUTH)

Seoul Domestic Service in
Korean

700

Seoul YONHAP in
English

45220

Seoul CHOSON ILBO in
Korean

3200

Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in
Korean

5410

Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media
Korean

4950

Seoul HANGUK ILBO in
Korean

1450

Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in
Korean

0

Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in
Korean

2550

Seoul SINTONG-A in
Korean

0

Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in
English

25040

Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in
English

29280

Seoul TONG-A ILBO in
Korean

2500

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow International Service in
Korean

6550